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15 October 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Deputy Director for Intelligence  
SUBJECT : Overseas Military Briefings

1. Some weeks back, as you know, Secretary Schlesinger said he thought it would be useful to brief US commanders abroad on significant findings from [redacted] material (he actually said "from [redacted]" but he rather obviously intended something broader). We were asked to consider what might be done.

2. There are a few basic points. For one, we should be considering primarily those US Commanders responsible for the Atlantic/NATO areas. Some possible topics might be apropos for CINCPAC. For another, [redacted] material--valuable as it is--is but one source and our most significant products involve the combination of all sources. A final point...sensitivity and security require very special arrangements.

3. Accordingly, rather than undertake a briefing schedule fixed to periodic updating, we propose:

a. that the briefings be based upon all-source research findings dealing with subjects of special interest to specific US commanders. (Examples include our recent study on USSR perceptions of US general purpose weapons systems; a current study concerning the Soviet reinforcement/offensive scenario in Central Europe; our paper on Warsaw Pact naval strategy. All make extensive use of unique [redacted] material.)

b. that the timing of the briefings be based upon the status of research and our findings and that the timing not be set rigidly and periodically.

25X1

c. that the overseas briefings be given at two levels. For the top commanders--alone--the briefs would be full-bore and truly all-source. For their staffs the briefings would be all-source but would be sanitized to the extent necessary to protect the more sensitive [redacted] material. Any written summaries of the briefings left abroad would be of the latter nature.

4. To be effective and to insure proper community attention to the task, we would want to undertake it jointly with DIA. I have already discussed the idea--in general terms--with General Graham and he favors it. If the proposal is approved, we would meet with DIA, develop a list of briefing topics--current and projected, identify those commanders and staffs who should be briefed and submit the details upward for final approval in CIA and DOD.

5. It goes without saying that the program would be in need of financing. OSR is not currently budgeted for the travel that would be required. The additional sums would not be large.

6. We believe this approach makes sense and I recommend approval.

[redacted]  
E. H. KNOCHE  
Director  
Strategic Research

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